Government had, in August, 1998, formulated a Policy on Hydro Power Development in the country including North-Eastern Region with the objective of exploiting the hydro electric potential at a faster pace. The hydro power policy, among others, lays emphasis on basin-wise development, evolving consensus on inter-State issues, mitigation of geological risks, simplifying procedure for transference of clearances, promoting joint venture arrangements etc. There is enormous exploitable hydro electric power potential of 58971 MW (in terms of installed capacity) in the North-Eastern Region, excluding small hydro power units below 3 MW capacity. Only 927 MW of this potential has been developed and a further capacity of 522 MW is under development. Action to develop hydro electric schemes for a further capacity of 22795 MW in the North-East has been initiated under the 3-stage development process by taking up Survey & Investigation and pre-construction and other activities for a number of projects.

**Techno-Economic Clearance to Bellary Thermal Power Station in Karnataka**

1856. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether techno-economic clearnace has been given by Central Eelctricity Authority to start Bellary Thermal Power station in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details about the environment and pollution clearance;

(c) the cost of the project; and

(d) by when project is to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The project has been cleared by the Karnataka Pollution Control Board on 2.6.1999 and by the Ministry of Environment & Forest on 9.8.2000.

(c) The capital cost of the project as estimated by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd., (KPCL) for the 1×500 MW Bellary Thermal Power Project is Rs. 2217 crores.

(d) The commissioning of the plant is envisaged in a period of 36 months from the date of financial closure as per the report received from KPCL.

**Proposal for electrification in U.P.**

†1857. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any new proposal with regard to electrification in Uttar Pradesh:

(b) if so, the programmes being chalked out for implementing the same;

(c) whether there is any shortfall in the requisite generation and supply of power for the state;

(d) whether the purchase of inferior quality equipments and the poor maintenance are the reasons for irregular supply of electricity; and

(e) if so, what efforts are being made to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government of Uttar Pradesh has kept a target of electrification of 5,742 number of villages during the 10th Plan period under Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). A sum of Rs. 47.09 crores has been released to Government of Uttar Pradesh under PMGY during the current financial year in the first instalment.

(c) Yes, Sir. Against restricted evening peak demand of about 6500-6800 MW, the total availability is about 5400-5700 MW and the shortage in the availability is met through emergency rostering.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The main cause for irregular supply is due to insufficient strengthening and upgradation of transmission/distribution

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.